

NEWS RELEASE

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Metro Area Unemployment Rates Continue Rising

Job Growth Remains Slow

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	December 2015	December 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.4%	4.8%	0.6
Carbondale-Marion	6.5%	6.0%	0.5
Champaign-Urbana	5.4%	5.0%	0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.6%	5.6%	0.0
Danville	7.4%	7.0%	0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.9%	5.9%	0.0
Decatur	7.4%	7.0%	0.4
Elgin	6.2%	6.0%	0.2
Kankakee	7.0%	6.8%	0.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.8%	5.7%	0.1
Peoria	7.0%	6.2%	0.8
Rockford	7.2%	6.9%	0.3
Springfield	5.4%	5.3%	0.1
St. Louis (IL-Section)	6.1%	6.1%	0.0
Illinois Statewide	5.9%	5.8%	0.1

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Illinois jobs decreased in six metropolitan areas and unemployment rates increased in eleven regions, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The unemployment rate remained the same in three areas and one metro area saw no change in non farm jobs. The not seasonally adjusted data compares over-the-year change from December 2015 with December 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in areas including the Quad Cities (-2.4 percent, -4,500), Decatur (-1.8 percent, -900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.3 percent, -700), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.3 percent, -5,100). Illinois businesses added jobs in seven metros including Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,100), Champaign-Urbana (+0.8 percent, +900), Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+0.7 percent or +26,800), and Danville (+0.7 percent, +200). Two industries recorded job growth: Education and Health Services (nine sectors) and Leisure and Hospitality (eight sectors).

“Illinois took another hit on jobs and many metro areas continue to absorb these hits,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Since the

previous jobs peak in 2007, only three out of fourteen metro areas have regained the jobs lost during the recession.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in December 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in December and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – December 2015

Metropolitan Area	December 2015*	December 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,100	95,000	100
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,500	55,200	-700
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,600	109,700	900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,658,100	3,631,300	26,800
Danville MSA	29,700	29,500	200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,500	184,000	-4,500
Decatur MSA	50,300	51,200	-900
Elgin Metro Division	255,700	251,600	4,100
Kankakee MSA	45,700	45,700	0
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	396,400	401,500	-5,100
Peoria MSA	178,700	178,400	300
Rockford MSA	152,000	152,300	-300
Springfield MSA	112,900	112,400	500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	230,500	231,400	-900
Illinois Statewide	5,949,700	5,951,300	-1,600

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Over- the-Year Change
Decatur MSA			
Macon County	7.4%	7.0%	0.4
Springfield MSA			
Menard County	5.2%	5.1%	0.1
Sangamon County	5.4%	5.3%	0.1
Cities			
Decatur City	8.1%	7.7%	0.4
Springfield City	5.7%	5.5%	0.2
Counties			
Adams County	5.1%	4.7%	0.4
Brown County	3.4%	3.3%	0.1
Calhoun County	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2
Cass County	5.9%	5.8%	0.1
Christian County	7.1%	6.6%	0.5
DeWitt County	6.2%	5.6%	0.6
Douglas County	5.4%	4.9%	0.5
Greene County	6.3%	6.2%	0.1
Jersey County	6.8%	6.4%	0.4
Logan County	5.7%	5.5%	0.2
Macoupin County	6.5%	6.4%	0.1
Montgomery County	8.6%	7.5%	1.1
Morgan County	5.5%	5.3%	0.2
Moultrie County	4.9%	4.4%	0.5
Piatt County	5.3%	4.8%	0.5
Pike County	5.5%	5.1%	0.4
Schuyler County	6.4%	5.8%	0.6
Scott County	6.8%	6.8%	0.0
Shelby County	6.9%	5.9%	1.0
Other Areas			
LWA 19	7.2%	6.8%	0.4
LWA 20	5.6%	5.5%	0.1
LWA 21	6.7%	6.3%	0.4
Central EDR	6.2%	6.0%	0.2

Note:

Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 6,500 positions in December and approximately 85 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Decatur MSA

The December 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.4 percent from 7.0 percent in December 2014. There were an estimated 3,700 unemployed people in the labor force in December 2015.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in the Decatur metro area declined by (-900) compared to one year ago. Payrolls increased in Professional and Business Services (+500) and Construction (+200). Declines were reported in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-600), Leisure and Hospitality (-300), Education and Health Services (-300), Retail Trade (-100), Government (-100), Other Services (-100), and Wholesale Trade (-100). All other major industry sectors were unchanged compared to one year ago.

Springfield MSA

The unemployment rate rose slightly to 5.4 percent in December 2015 from 5.3 percent in December 2014. There were an estimated 6,100 unemployed people in the labor force in December 2015. The rate remains below the comparable state rate of 5.9 percent. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The Springfield metro area nonfarm job total increased by (+500) compared to a year ago. Payroll increases were reported in Educational and Health Services (+600), Other Services (+300), and Construction (+200). Declines were reported in Information (-200), Government (-200), Professional and Business Services (-100), and Financial Activities (-100). All other major industry sectors were little changed compared to last year.